

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Preliminarily, the Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for acknowledging the allowability of claims 1-4, 7, 8, 10-16, 19-27, 37-38, 39-43, and 52-67.

Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1-4, 7, 8, 10-16, 19-27, 37-43, and 52-67, as amended, will be pending. Claims 34-36, 44 and 48-51 have been cancelled, without prejudice to their re-entry (*e.g.*, in a continuation application) in order to expedite the pending prosecution. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Preliminarily, it is submitted that a re-executed oath is in preparation and will be submitted in due course.

Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 10-16, 19-27, 37-38, 39-43, 52-67 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Applicants have amended the claims with the Examiner's suggestion in mind, and assert that the pending claims are in full compliance with §112.

Claims 36 and 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by FMC Corp., CA 2,188,331. In addition, claims 34-36, 44, and 48-51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 96/31187, in view of WO 93/02571. These rejections are rendered moot by the above claim cancellations.

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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